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- (d) a center portion between the first and second side; and
- (e) a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by a plurality of bridges of connecting material;

(B) a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

- 5 (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is

10 traversed in the direction from the first side of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media;

- (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media; and

15 [(c)] wherein the tear bar [and the strip of media are] remains in a fixed position relative to the strip of the media [each other] during separation of the strip of media.

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30. (Amended) A method of separating a piece of media from a strip of media, the method comprising the following steps:

(A) providing a strip of media, the media comprising:

- (a) a surface;
- (b) a first side;
- (c) a second side;
- (d) a center portion; and
- (e) an end portion;

(B) providing a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

- (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and
- (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media;

(C) positioning the strip of media, wherein the first side is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side portion and the second side is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side portion; and

(D) applying a longitudinal force to the end portion of the strip of media, wherein the first side portion and the second side portion abut the surface of the strip of media and resist the longitudinal movement of the strip of media, wherein the tear bar

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[and the strip of media are] remains in a fixed position relative to the strip of  
media [each other] during separation of the strip of media, and wherein a strain is  
created in the strip of media.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
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